

## REVIEWS

**DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.** By F. M. R. Walshe. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. Fifth Edition, 1947.

THE steady flow of new editions of this book is sufficient testimony to its popularity and value. The present edition contains additional illustrations; the chapter on space-occupying lesions within the skull has been extended and more details are given of the treatment of cerebrospinal and other forms of acute meningitis by the sulphonamides and penicillin. One envies Dr. Walshe the facility with which he contrives (notwithstanding the material introduced since the book was first published) to keep its size within reasonable proportions. This feat certainly reflects the great care which the author has taken with the preparation of the several editions and will ensure its continued success.

R. S. A.

**A HANDBOOK FOR NURSERY NURSES.** By A. B. Meering, S.R.N. Pp. 509. Illustrated. Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 17s. 6d.

THIS is a very sound book. The information contained within would be of most benefit to those seeking knowledge and help in the care of healthy children, especially where conditions in the home or nursery school would allow the routine and application of methods advocated.

As a basis for preparatory or pre-nursing course, there is a wealth of information which would be of benefit to students, especially those who are interested in and intend to undertake training course of Nursing Care of Sick Children. Students with no previous knowledge or opportunity to understand a child's mind in health would be given some understanding of the method of approach, so that it would be less difficult to deal with the sick child, or one confined to bed in hospital.

The book will have a good reception from those who are lucky enough to acquire copies.

E. E. A.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO DERMATOLOGY.** Formerly by Norman Walker, Kt., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.P., and G. H. Percival, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H. Eleventh Edition by G. H. Percival, Grant Professor of Dermatology, the University of Edinburgh, etc. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 35s.

THIS new edition of the well-known textbook has been completely rewritten; in fact, apart from some of the photographs, the book bears little resemblance to its predecessors. There are three hundred and thirty-nine pages in the book and two hundred and thirty-three illustrations, of which one hundred and forty-six are in full colour.

A large number of the illustrations are similar to those presented in the "Atlas of Histopathology of the Skin," of which Professor Percival is part author (see review on page ). In the reviewer's opinion that is all to the good, since some of these photographs are excellent; in fact, the photographs are the best part of this work, although a few are not quite up to standard; for example, figs. 8, 47, 120, 124, 143, 160, and 209, but the excellence of figs. 35, 94, 97, 141, 146, and 206 atone for the poor ones.

When one comes to consider the text, difficulty arises at once. This book is an introduction to the subject of dermatology, and it seems very doubtful if the author is justified in allowing so much highly unorthodox teaching to appear in a textbook presumably intended for students everywhere. The chapters on "Eczema and Dermatitis" may be taken as an example. In the tenth edition of the book the word "eczema" was avoided as far as possible and the non-committal term "dermatitis" substituted. It was, in fact, stated: "By using in its stead the word dermatitis (without any adjective) we admit our ignorance and constantly remind ourselves of the necessity of searching out the cause of the inflammation." In this new edition the author has jettisoned the word "dermatitis" and salvaged "eczema," so that we find such familiar terms as "dermatitis venenata" changed to "chemical eczema," "seborrhœic dermatitis" to "an infected eczematide," and "sycosis" is described as a special type of "follicular infective eczema"! One must confess